

out the United States may have opportunity to scan the same.

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Nagging Officialness.—In the Letters Department of the current number is printed a copy of a letter dated September 25th, sent by Dr. Harold A. Fletcher, California State Chairman for Physicians' Procurement and Assignment Service to Dr. Paul C. Barton, Executive Officer of the central Procurement and Assignment Service in Washington, D. C. In his letter, Dr. Fletcher directs attention to procedures which would make it necessary for physicians to register, and write additional paper reports.

In these busy days, many physicians are rendering professional courtesies to colleagues, when the doctors called upon, because of more immediate responsibilities, are themselves unable to respond. For the letter referred to, see page 226.

Dr. Fletcher is to be commended not only for his forthright statements, but for the service he has rendered in calling the attention of the Washington authorities to the annoying officialness of representatives of the Social Security Board. Physicians should take the time to read the letter. Naturally the thought arises,—Are the conditions criticized by Dr. Fletcher a foretaste or sample of what medical men may experience, if compulsory governmental medicine is put in operation?

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Industrial Accident Work Fee Schedule Increased by 15 Per Cent Surcharge.—Minutes of the 320th meeting of the C.M.A. Council (CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, for September, page 153, Item 10) gave information concerning conferences with the California Industrial Accident Commission and other groups. Also, that the California Industrial Accident Commission had officially authorized a 15 per cent surcharge on fees for professional services rendered to patients coming under the jurisdiction of the industrial accident laws of California. The component county societies of the California Medical Association have been so notified. However, one or two commercial carriers seem reluctant to abide by the ruling of the State Industrial Accident Commission. Such instances should be reported to the central office of the California Medical Association.

The following is one of several resolutions adopted by county medical societies:

RESOLUTION OF SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY

WHEREAS, The industrial accident rates for medical services have not been increased for the last 24 years; and

WHEREAS, The costs of rendering these services have materially increased during this long period of time; therefore be it

Resolved, That the San Joaquin County Medical Society does hereby endorse the 15 per cent surcharge authorized by the Industrial Accident Commission of the State of California, as a partial compensation for these increased costs; and further

Resolved, That all members of this Society include

this 15 per cent surcharge on all statements for medical services rendered to industrial accident patients as of August 1, 1944, as authorized by the California Industrial Accident Commission. (See letters on p. 215.)

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Four Symposia on Wartime Medical Topics.

—The current issue carries the first of four symposia on wartime medical topics. Reference was made to these, in reports submitted by the Editorial Board to the C.M.A. Council (references: CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, for June, page 325, Item 13; and CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, for September, page 153, Item 9). The symposia were gathered under the supervision of special committees: (1) Civilian Defense, Dr. Henry Gibbons, III, San Francisco; (2) Communicable Diseases, Dr. Edward B. Shaw, San Francisco; (3) Nutritional Topics, Dr. Dwight L. Wilbur, San Francisco; (4) Industrial Problems, Dr. Rutherford T. Johnstone, Los Angeles.

The symposia will probably appear in the order indicated. Because of the lesser size of the OFFICIAL JOURNAL, due to governmental directives designed to alleviate paper shortage, the symposia, during the next four months, will use all available space in the department allocated to original articles. Thereafter, papers presented at this year's annual session, and before county societies, will again receive consideration for publication.

Thanks are extended by the Editorial Board to all who participated in the collection and preparation of the articles that will appear in the symposia.

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P. and A. Clearance, as a Requirement for Membership in County Medical Societies.

Component County Medical Societies that have taken no action to date, may wish to give consideration to prospective by-laws laying down,—for this wartime period, at least,—a new requirement to apply to applicants for county society membership. The principles and issues involved are worthy of careful thought.

A paragraph from a letter sent out by Dr. Harold A. Fletcher, Physicians' Procurement and Assignment Service chairman for California, gives the following information:

"Over a year ago, in discussing this problem with my San Mateo County Chairman of Procurement and Assignment Service, and the San Mateo County Medical Society, the San Mateo County Medical Society passed a resolution which would debar new applicants from membership in the San Mateo County Medical Society who located in San Mateo County, in areas or locations where their services were not considered by Procurement and Assignment Service as definitely essential.

"This resolution, which was adopted, has had a very helpful effect in getting new physicians wishing to locate in San Mateo County to take definite locations where they were needed, or in causing them to locate in some other county where their services were very much needed.

"It has also had the general all-over effect of assuring physicians from San Mateo County who are on active duty with the military forces, that their practices would

be, to a certain degree at least, protected and preserved against their return."

A resolution of the Santa Clara County Medical Society follows:

WHEREAS, There are at present communities in which there is great need for civilian medical personnel; and

WHEREAS, The procurement and assignment service is unable to assign physicians to these needy localities; and

WHEREAS, There may occur situations in which areas vacated by physicians in the armed forces are exploited for personal advantage by physicians arriving from localities outside of Santa Clara County; therefore be it

Resolved, That applications for membership in the Santa Clara County Medical Society shall, for the duration of the present emergency, be approved only when the applicants have been certified by the Santa Clara Procurement and Assignment Committee as "locally essential" in the community in which they practice, or propose to practice."

* * *

Announcements of Major Political Parties Concerning Public Health and Medical Service Policies.—During recent years, the system of medical practice that has long been in vogue, and through which American Medicine has been able to give to citizens of the United States,—in spite of the magnitude of the diversified topographic, climatic, economic and social environments the lowest morbidity and mortality records of any of the civilized lands and peoples,—has been marked for succeeding attacks by theoretical and other groups, who have worked out blue prints for a changed relationship they hope to bring into being for the medical profession.

Or, to put it otherwise, in recent years, American Medicine has been subjected to repeated assaults from political angles. This is a new experience to many physicians. Proponents of the new plans have carried their propaganda into the Congressional halls, and are vigorously advocating enactment of laws which, if applied, would make, not for better but for poorer medical practice and care of citizens. Since this is the case, then, whether American Medicine likes it or not, its disciples must begin to take an active interest in political alignments that have relation to medical practice.

In that spirit, and in full nonpartisanship, excerpts from the platforms and announcements of the Democratic and Republican parties were given in *CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE* in the issues of August (page 113) and September (page 159). In the current issue (on page 225) appears an interesting statement made by Governor Thomas E. Dewey, taken from his speech given in the Los Angeles Coliseum on September 22nd. It is heartening to read the following statement:

"We must help to develop a means for assurance of medical service to those of our citizens who need it, and who cannot otherwise obtain it.

"This is a task that must be carried out in coöperation with our medical men. *There can be no group better able to advise on medical care than the medical profession.*"

Bubonic Plague in California.—Many younger members of the California Medical Association have only a vague understanding of the seriousness of the California bubonic plague outbreak which started in 1900 in San Francisco. In the Twenty-Five Years Ago and Letters departments of *CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE*, references have been made thereto in the past.*

More recently, in a lay publication (*American Mercury*, for September, on page 312) appeared an illuminating article from which liberal excerpts have been made, these appearing in the current number of *CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE*, on page 218. (For other references, see footnote.*)

As there stated, sylvatic plague (plague of rodent animals) is now a widespread disease. The outbreaks of bubonic and pneumonic plague which have occurred in past years in the cities of San Francisco, Oakland and Los Angeles should be a warning to physicians throughout the Western States to be on guard. The U. S. Public Health Service and the State Boards of Public Health have spent thousands of dollars in work designed to keep the disease under control. In the fight against the *Bacillus pestis*, one cannot be too vigilant.

* * *

Anti-Vivisection Activities in Washington, D. C., and Chicago.—*CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE*, in the September number, gave space to a brief article by Publicist Chester Rowell of California, on the anti-vivisection campaigns recently carried on in the Nation's capital, and in Chicago. In the C.M.A. files were some copies of the articles by Dr. A. C. Ivy of Northwestern University, printed some years ago in *CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE*. Copies of Dr. Ivy's excellent portrayals of what scientific animal experimentation has done in protection of the health and lives of human beings, and also of lower animals, were sent to Senator William Langer and Representative Burdick of North Dakota. Reference is made to the short article by Mr. Rowell because it is worthy of perusal. (See September issue, on page 163.)

What profit a man to know Plato and Aristotle when confronted with the cold, flat fact of making a living? An empty negative, if you must judge by the standards of the market-place; but there are other values; and if these distracted times prove anything, they prove that the greatest illusion is reliance upon the security and permanence of material possessions. We must search for some other coin. And we will discover that the treasure-house of education has stood intact and unshaken in the storm. The man of cultivated life has founded his house upon a rock. You can never take away the magnificent mansion of his mind.—John Cudahy.

"It is not to be imagined that he should know the remedies of diseases who knows not their original causes."—*Aurelius Cornelius Celsus*.

* For article on Bubonic Plague outbreak in year 1900 see *CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE*, for February, 1939, on page 121. Footnote thereto gives additional references.